



Maine Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2018 – 2:00 – 5:00, DEP Response Training Room – Augusta AMHI Campus

Present: Jed Talbot, Ed Coleman, Nancy Grant, Gary Marquis, Holly Sheehan, Tamara Whitmore, Charlie Woodworth, Chris Riley, Patrick Adams, Doug Beck, Eric Dibner, Sara Knowles, Burnham Martin, Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Rex Turner

Excused: Tracy Willett, Chris Riley

Absent: Bob Meyers, Bill Williams, Norm Poirier

- I. Welcome / Call to order – by Doug Beck, absent both Chair Willette and Vice Chair Meyers
- II. Sharing among the members
 - A. Ed reports of progress made by Sanford ATV trails to make new trail linkages within town boundaries
 - B. Nancy reports that E-bikes are still an issue (how to treat them) and in general not well thought of. Portland has created some parking protected bike lanes – a big step forward for bike use inner city.
 - C. Holly reports that MATC continues to install fully ADA compliant toilets on the AT in Maine.
 - D. Sara reports that Lindsay May has been hired to replace her as the MCC Trail Team Manager
 - E. Rex reports that digital displays via SEE have been mostly successful but more study is needed to fully assess this success.
 - F. Jed reports that Northern Forest Canoe Trail is becoming leaner in response to limited resources but still pressing ahead on promoting the concept and paddling on water trails.
- III. Funding Overview / RTP 2018 update
 - A. Doug provided a review of current funding and project awards, primarily that no adjustments were required from the November recommendations of the committee for funding allocations. Some \$90,000+ will be deobligated from old funds to enhance some of the work on state side projects.
- IV. Standards Action Group Recommendations
 - A. Discussion of progress so far on trail standards and recommendation from standards subcommittee on eligible projects. Primary discussion centered on mechanized equipment which MTAC had been leaning toward allowing. Recent decisions by FHWA and the current administration regarding Buy America and waivers (unlikelihood of future waivers) led to tabling this initiative for now.
 - B. Kiosk Discussion – one of the standards subcommittee recommendations was to not fund kiosks given the perception that they generally are not well maintained. Further evidence



was presented by Rex that of those who arrive at a trailhead, only 40% actually look at a kiosk or what is on it, and of these the average time spent at the kiosk is 5 seconds. Discussion ensued about the value of these structures for trail management, information dissemination and whether other, better options now exist. No consensus however was reached on the funding question and so no changes made for MTAC policy.

V. Grant Application Modifications for 2019 season

A. After a protracted discussion on construction standards and kiosks, there was little time remaining. Doug asked the committee to begin considering the following for future discussion and decisions:

- 1) Is the penalty for consecutive applications from one organization sufficient? (should we be funding the same organization repeatedly, year in and year out?)

VI. RTP Education Initiative

A. Proposal / volunteers for action group to discuss funding equity with transportation committee / chair, DOT and other decision makers.

- 1) In the absence of Chair Willette, Doug provided an overview of the Chair's position that MTAC needed to do a better job of educating key decision makers, DOT, Transportation Committee, etc., who hold the purse strings for RTP, to provide a better understanding of the value of RTP projects to Maine and the project recipients, and that the Chair would be reaching out to members to form a small committee to work on this initiative.

VII. Adjournment / Next Meeting

- A. 5pm adjournment
- B. Next meeting TBA – late summer / early autumn